

I will read a portion of a pamphlet distributed five years ago to residents of the North Ward. The statements would have applied equally to any ward.

"The North Ward struggles to establish itself as a pleasant, safe place for people to live. The City of Newark is fighting for survival. The governmental organization of the City has become a joke throughout the nation. Federal and State governments have lost confidence in the ability of the City to govern itself effectively and make efficient use of Federal and State funds. Municipal expenditures will rise by 17.9 million dollars in 1974, 12% over 1973. The proposed tax cut is possible only by reason of State and Federal aid. City Council, the governing body, apparently ignores these facts or does not care. Only the City Council has the power and authority to bring about an effective, efficient governmental organization. Without it, the hopes of the North Ward and the City will not be realized."

Five years later, after the receipt of more than five hundred million dollars of federal and state funds, this statement is still true.

This Council has failed to accept its responsibility under the Charter of the City of Newark. It has permitted, abetted and even encouraged the continued expansion of a bureaucracy the City cannot afford while population and ratables steadily declined.

Because of its failure to exercise its authority, the City Council has become a part of the problem, and cannot point the finger of blame at the executive and administrative branch of government. It has consistently gone along with this irresponsible expansion and deviation from the provisions of the Charter, and has thereby proved itself irresponsible.

City government now is not organized, it is chaotic. It could not organize itself out of a teacup.

I ask that members of the Council read very carefully the City Charter adopted in 1954, and accept its responsibility to establish actually the government described in, and legally required by, the Charter.

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